



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **NINE SCHOOL DISTRICTS RECOGNIZED FOR AP GAINS**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Nine Kentucky public school districts join 530 other districts nationwide and in Canada on the third annual Advanced Placement® ([AP](#)) District Honor Roll.

The districts were honored for simultaneously increasing access to AP® course work while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's AP program because it indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit most from rigorous AP course work.

The nine Kentucky districts on the 2012 AP District Honor Roll are:

- **Ashland Independent**
- **Boone County**
- **Bourbon County**
- **Clinton County** (30 percent or more students qualify for free/reduced-price meals)
- **Fayette County**
- **Oldham County** (also honored in 2010 and 2011)
- **Pulaski County** (30 percent or more students qualify for free/reduced-price meals)
- **Spencer County**
- **Washington County**

The Diocese of Covington also was placed on the 2012 AP District Honor Roll. Kentucky school districts and a non-public school entity also were recognized in 2010 and 2011.

### **2010**

Archdiocese of Louisville  
Barren County  
Marion County  
Oldham County  
Simpson County

### **2011**

Barren County  
Christian County  
Graves County  
Oldham County

A total of 539 school districts across 44 of 50 states in the U. S. and six Canadian provinces achieved honor roll status. The state of Massachusetts was represented by the largest number of AP Honor Roll districts, with 46, followed by Michigan, with 39.

(more)

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More than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the U.S. offer college credit, advanced placement or both for a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam — which can potentially save students and their families thousands of dollars in college tuition.

In 2012, 26,523 Kentucky public school students took more than 43,000 AP exams. More than 20,000 of those exams were scored at 3, 4 or 5.

Inclusion on the 3rd Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2010 to 2012, for the following criteria:

Districts must:

- increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts and at least 11 percent in small districts
- ensure that the percentage of African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students taking AP Exams did not decrease by more than 5 percent for large and medium districts or by more than 10 percent for small districts
- improve performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2012 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2010, unless the district has already attained a performance level in which more than 70 percent of the AP students are scoring a 3 or higher

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population made up of 30 percent or more underrepresented minority students (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native) and/or 30 percent or more low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work. Among Kentucky's AP Honor Roll inductees, the Clinton County and Pulaski County school districts met this criteria.

The [College Board's](#) Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both — while still in high school. Through AP courses in 34 subjects, each culminating in a rigorous exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments and see many sides of an issue — skills that prepare them for college and beyond.

Taking AP courses demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought the most rigorous curriculum available to them, and research indicates that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree than non-AP students.

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